

MESA - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today donated several boxes of books he obtained from the Library of Congress to A New Leaf's La Mesita Family Shelter, a non-profit organization committed to serving homeless families.

"As a former teacher, I know how important it is to make sure our youth and families have the resources and supplies necessary for learning," said Mitchell. "A quality education is a priority in our local communities, and reading helps not only improve literacy, but also build fundamental skills for the future."

Mitchell donated more than 130 books he requested from the Library of Congress. The books, all recent titles in excellent condition, are surplus that the Library periodically makes available to Members of Congress to distribute to schools, public libraries and non-profits on a first-come-first-served basis. The books include children's literature, young adult fiction, history and reference books, self-help and academic textbooks.

Mitchell, whose office has been collecting books for several weeks, chose La Mesita for this initial donation after visiting the shelter last year, along with Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, to kick-off the "United We Serve" national volunteer initiative.

A New Leaf's La Mesita Homeless Shelter has served thousands of homeless families by providing life skills training, work assistance, counseling, socialization skills, basic needs and shelter. A New Leaf is continually expanding in response to community needs, and now offers over 25 different programs.

Mitchell was joined by Mike Hutchinson, Vice President of A New Leaf's Board of Directors, and Mesa City Councilman Dennis Kavanaugh.

###